

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Political Situation in the USSR After Stalin's Death 2. Personalities in the Western Ukraine	DATE DISTR.	19 Nov. 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	5
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
This is UNEVALUATED			25X1

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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BERIA'S ARREST

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2. BERIA was arrested in a "dacha" (country house) near MOSCOW in June or July, 1953 by three high-ranking officers of the Soviet High Command - a General, a Colonel and a Marshal (referred to as "Zhukovtsy", i.e. adherents of Zhukov) - and an unknown number of representatives of the Party (referred to as "Khrushchevtsy", i.e. adherents of KHRUSHCHEV), and was executed without trial about a month later. The arrest was authorized at a meeting called by KHRUSHCHEV of the Central Committee of the Party, which not all members attended, after the charges against BERIA had been put to a vote.

3. MALENKOV's part in the events leading up to BERIA's arrest was not mentioned. It was believed that KHRUSHCHEV had taken the initiative with the support of a number of his personal proteges whom he had managed to appoint to important posts after effecting their transfer from KIEV, where he formerly had great influence.

INCREASED POWERS OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

4. After STALIN's death a secret directive was issued (exact date unknown) by the Ministry of Justice to Public Prosecutors, according to which the latter are now authorized to examine the files held by the M.G.B. in connection with the arrest of persons accused of political crimes and to delay or prevent, if they think necessary on legal grounds, the conviction of such persons. In addition, Party members may now be arrested without the previous sanction

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of either the local Public Prosecutor or the Secretary of the Party. Although these new regulations exist more in theory than in practice and it would probably still be unwise for a Public Prosecutor to oppose the wishes of the M.G.B. too strongly, Public Prosecutors do apparently now feel at less of a disadvantage vis-a-vis the M.G.B. than before. More attention is now paid also to allegations against party, or even M.V.D./M.G.B. officials, made in anonymous letters sent to Public Prosecutors. Visits of inspecting commissions from the Central Committee of the Party to provincial administrative centres are more frequent than formerly, but no details are known regarding their powers.

#### RECENT CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF THE M.V.D.

5. Subject has no knowledge of personalities in the M.V.D. who have changed since STALIN's death. He has heard, however, from his father that there has been a marked tendency since the downfall of ~~BERIA~~<sup>Y</sup> for young, junior officers of the M.V.D. to be promoted over the heads of their seniors. The reason for this is, in his opinion, that the older officials who have been a long time in the employ of the M.V.D. are more likely to have been supporters of ~~BERIA~~<sup>Y</sup>.

6. A few months before STALIN's death there was a general reduction of pay for members of the M.V.D. (no details known), and there have been many complaints from M.V.D. officers since about their worsened conditions of service generally.

#### PERSONALITIES IN THE WESTERN UKRAINE

7. (a) GRUSHETSKIY (fnu) - a Great Russian, is secretary of the Obkompartii, LUTSK. Aged about 55. Formerly a Lieutenant-General in the Soviet Army (until about 1947). Was Secretary of the Obkompartii, LVOV, whence he was transferred to LUTSK in 1952. This transfer represented a demotion for him, as the Lvovskaya Oblast is more important than Vo'lynskaya Oblast. He is said to have made himself unpopular on account of his dictatorial behaviour vis-a-vis other party officials, although the peasants in Volynskaya Oblast are fond of him.

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[redacted] His main hobby is hunting, which he does chiefly in the area round KOLKI (Volynskaya Oblast); on these hunting trips he is usually escorted by a few uniformed members of the M.V.D. troops, whose presence he resents. They are supplied compulsorily by the local M.V.D. authorities in order to protect him from possible attacks by partisans.

- (b) ZHUKOVSKIY (fnu) - a Great Russian, was Second Secretary of the Obkompartii, LUTSK, until 1951, and is probably still in the same post, which he has held ever since the area was liberated from the Germans during the Second World War. [redacted]
- [redacted]

- (c) MALYUTA (fnu) - was Third Secretary of the Obkompartii, LUTSK until 1951, and is probably still in that post. His son, born about 1927, was conscripted into the Soviet Army at the end of the Second World War and was transferred as a Sergeant in 1947 to the M.V.D. Kremlin Guard (Kremlovskaya Okhrana M.V.D.), where he is now believed to be an officer.
- (d) SANZHARA (fnu) - was Head of the Section for General Supervision of the Public Prosecutor's Office in LUTSK until 1951, when he was dismissed as a result of an inquiry which revealed that some of his relatives had had dealings with the Germans during the Second World War in German-occupied territory. He returned to his native town somewhere in the central part of European Russia and has not been heard of since.
- (e) SIMONENKO (fnu) - Public Prosecutor in LUTSK since 1946, and was still in that post in November/December 1953. He is one of the few officials of the Public Prosecutor's Office to have remained there for such a long period.
- (f) PETROVA (fnu) - was female investigator (Starshiy Sledovatel') of the Investigation Section of the Public Prosecutor's Office, LUTSK.

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She committed suicide in 1952. The official reason given was that she had been a failure at her job and had therefore become very depressed. Local rumour has it, however, that she had taken an increasing dislike to the Soviet system and could not stand it any longer.

- (g) Colonel RAYCHENKO (fnu) - was Head of the LUTSK M.V.D. Directorate (Nachal'nik Oblastnogo Upravleniya M.V.D.) until 1952, when he was transferred to KIEV and appointed Deputy Head of the Oblast Directorate of the M.V.D. there (Zamestitel' Nachal'nika Kievskego Oblastnogo Upravleniya M.V.D.). Although not well-educated he was regarded in LUTSK as "one of the people" and more approachable than the average M.V.D. official.
- (h) UDOVITSKIY (fnu) - was President of the Gorsovet in LUTSK until 1951, when he was dismissed as a result of the discovery that he had associated in some way or other with the Germans during the Second World War in German occupied territory.
- (i) TERESHCHUK (fnu) - President of a large collective farm (Predsedatel' Ykrupney'nogo Kolkhoza) about fifteen kilometres West of ROZHISCHIE, near LUTSK. Formerly an official (Brigadir) on an animal farm. Elected a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in 1950 although she became a party member only about six years ago.

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8. The former Head (name unknown) of the Investigation Section of the LUTSK Public Prosecutor's Office (Nachal'nik Sledovatel'skogo Otdela Oblastnoy Prokuratury) was dismissed in 1949,

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He now holds the post of Head of the Supply Department of the "Voentorg" shops of Volynskaya Oblast in LUTSK.

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